

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

*Sub B1* Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A scanner comprising:  
memory [storing] that electronically stores a study identifier that identifies a study, a frame of image data belonging to [a] said study and report data belonging to said study;

a parallel port;

a serial port;

means for [joining an] associating said study identifier with said frame of image data [, said identifier identifying said study] in a first format;

means for sending said frame of image data [and] with said associated study identifier in [a] said first format out said parallel port;

means for [joining] associating said study identifier [with] and said report data in a second format different than said first format; and

means for sending said report data and said study identifier in [a] said second format out said serial port.

Claim 2 (Original): The scanner as recited in claim 1, wherein said first format conforms to DICOM standards.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The scanner as recited in claim 2, wherein study identifier comprises a DICOM study instance unique identifier.

Claim 4 (Original): The scanner as recited in claim 1, wherein said second format is ASCII format.

Claim 5 (Original): The scanner as recited in claim 1, wherein said parallel port comprises an Ethernet connection.

Claim 6 (Original): The scanner as recited in claim 1, wherein said serial port comprises an RS232 interface.

Q1 Claim 7 (Original): The scanner as recited in claim 1, further comprising an image acquisition subsystem for acquiring said frame of image data, wherein said image acquisition subsystem comprises an array of ultrasound transducer elements.

Claim 8 (Original): The scanner as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

a display monitor;

means for displaying said frame of image data on said display monitor;

means for measuring a feature in said displayed frame to acquire measurement data; and

a user interface screen for displaying said measurement data on said display monitor,

wherein said report data in said memory comprises said measurement data.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The scanner as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

a display monitor;

a patient information user interface screen displayed on said display monitor and comprising fields for entering patient information and an activatable exit field for requesting exit

from said patient information user interface screen; and

means for constructing said study identifier based at least in part on patient information entered on said user interface screen in response to activation of said exit field and then storing said study identifier in said memory.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A scanner comprising:

Q1 memory [storing] that electronically stores a study identifier that identifies a study, a frame of image data belonging to [a] said study and report data belonging to said study;

a parallel port;

a serial port; and

a computer programmed to perform the following steps:

[joining an] associating said study identifier with said frame of image data [, said identifier identifying said study] in a first format;

sending said frame of image data [and] with said associated study identifier in [a] said first format out said parallel port;

[joining] associating said study identifier [with] and said report data in a second format different than said first format; and

sending said report data and said study identifier in [a] said second format out said serial port.

Claim 11 (Original): The scanner as recited in claim 10, wherein said first format conforms to DICOM standards and said second format is ASCII format.

Claim 12 (Original): The scanner as recited in claim 10, wherein said parallel port comprises an Ethernet connection and said serial port comprises an RS232 interface.

Claim 13 (Original): The scanner as recited in claim 10, further comprising an array of ultrasound transducer elements.

Q1 Claim 14 (Original): The scanner as recited in claim 10, further comprising a user interface for entering report data and initiating transfer of said report data to said serial port, wherein said computer is further programmed to join said study identifier with said report data in response to initiation of transfer of said report data to said serial port.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method for transmitting linked images and reports from a computerized system, comprising the steps of:

electronically storing a study identifier that identifies a study, a frame of image data belonging to [a] said study and report data belonging to said study;

[joining an] associating said study identifier with [a] said frame of image data in a first format [, said identifier identifying a study];

sending said frame of image data and said study identifier in [a] said first format out a parallel port of said computerized system in response to a first system user command input;

[joining an] associating said study identifier with report data in a second format different than said first format; and

sending said report data and said study identifier in [a] said second format out a serial port of said computerized system in response to a second system user command input.

Claim 16 (Original): The method as recited in claim 15, wherein said first format conforms to DICOM standards.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein study identifier comprises a DICOM study instance unique identifier.

Claim 18 (Original): The method as recited in claim 15, wherein said second format comprises ASCII format.

Q1 Claim 19 (Original): The method as recited in claim 15, wherein said parallel port comprises an Ethernet connection.

Claim 20 (Original): The method as recited in claim 15, wherein serial port comprises an RS232 interface.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A view station comprising:

a display monitor;

a user interface;

[a parallel port;]

a data [serial] port;

memory; and

a computer programmed to perform the following steps:

storing frames of image data [received in a first format via said parallel port] in said memory, each frame having associated therewith a respective study identifier identifying the particular study to which said frame belongs;

receiving report data via said data port;

detecting report data having no study identifier associated therewith [received in a second format via said serial port];

searching said frames of image data for a frame having attributes [joined] associated with said image data which closely match attributes [joined] associated with said report data;

generating a message on said display monitor requesting confirmation that said report data should be linked to said frame having said closely matching attributes; and

[attaching] associating said study identifier [to] with said report data in response to receipt of a user input indicating confirmation via said operator interface.

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Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A method for linking images and report data in a computerized system, comprising the steps of:

storing frames of image data, each frame having associated therewith a respective study identifier identifying the particular study to which said frame belongs [in memory];

receiving report data [via a serial port];

detecting whether said received report data [having] has no study identifier associated therewith;

searching said frames of image data for a frame having attributes [joined] associated with said image data which closely match attributes [joined] associated with said report data;

displaying a message requesting confirmation that said report data should be linked to said frame having said closely matching attributes; and

[attaching] associating said study identifier [to] with said report data in response to receipt of confirmation.

Claim 23 (New): A scanner comprising:

an image acquisition system;

a display monitor;

an operator interface comprising movable input elements that are physical components and graphical user interface elements that are activatable only when displayed on said display monitor;

memory for storing data; and

a computer programmed to perform the following steps:

Q1 displaying a first graphical user interface screen on said display monitor in response to a first command inputted via said operator interface, said first graphical user interface screen comprising fillable fields for patient information and selectable fields representing examination categories;

exiting said first graphical user interface screen, recording the current date and time, and constructing a study identifier comprising said date, said time and a scanner identifier that identifies said scanner in response to a second command inputted via said operator interface;

storing said study identifier in said memory;

storing a frame of image data acquired by said image acquisition system in said memory in response to a second command inputted via said operator interface;

retrieving said frame of image data and said study identifier from said memory and constructing a data object comprising said frame of image data and said study identifier in a first format in response to a third command inputted via said operator interface;

displaying a second graphical user interface screen on said display monitor in response to a fourth command inputted via said operator interface, said second graphical user interface screen comprising fields filled with report data acquired during a study identified by said study identifier; and

retrieving said study identifier from said memory and constructing a file comprising said study identifier and said report data in said filled fields in a second format different than said first format in response to a fifth command inputted via said operator interface.

Q1 Claim 24 (New): The scanner as recited in claim 23, wherein said computer is further programmed to perform the following steps:

sending said data object to a first output port, addressed to a pre-designated remote device, in response to said third command; and

sending said file to a second output port, addressed to said pre-designated remote device, in response to said fifth command.